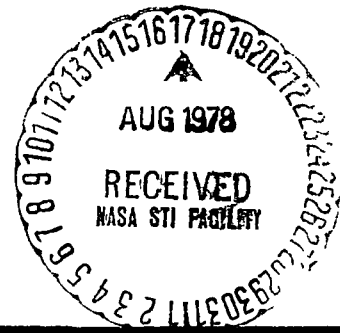


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For Release

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IMMEDIATE

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RELEASE NO: 78-116

PHOTOS AVAILABLE FROM SEASAT'S FIRST MONTH IN ORBIT

Radar images of the coastal regions of North America are being studied by scientists as Seasat-1 NASA's first ocean-monitoring satellite, completes its first month in orbit.

Launched June 26 from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, Seasat is observing the world's oceans from an 805-kilometer (500-mile) high polar orbit.

One of the satellite's five microwave sensors is a powerful radar system, called a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), which produces "pictures" of the Earth's surface day or night and under all weather conditions.

(NASA-News-Release-78-116) PHOTOS AVAILABLE
FROM SEASAT'S FIRST MONTH IN ORBIT (National
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A typical SAR operation produces a continuous swath of radar images 97 km (60 mi.) wide by 4,023 km (2,500 mi.) long, extending from the west coast of Mexico to Alaska. The information for such a swath is acquired by the satellite in 10 minutes and is processed later into a strip of pictures at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, Calif. JPL manages the Seasat project for the NASA Office of Space and Terrestrial Applications.

Radar images now being analyzed include those which show the Arctic ice pack, the Gulf Stream in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Florida, the Caribbean Sea off the northern coast of South America and a recent hurricane zone in the Pacific near the Baja California peninsula.

In addition to the NASA scientists, other government agency scientists studying the Seasat data are from: the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Environmental Satellite Service, U.S. Navy and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Photographs to illustrate this news release will be distributed without charge only to media representatives in the United States. They may be obtained by writing or phoning:

The Public Affairs Audio-Visual Office
Code LFB-10/NASA Headquarters
Washington, D.C. 20546

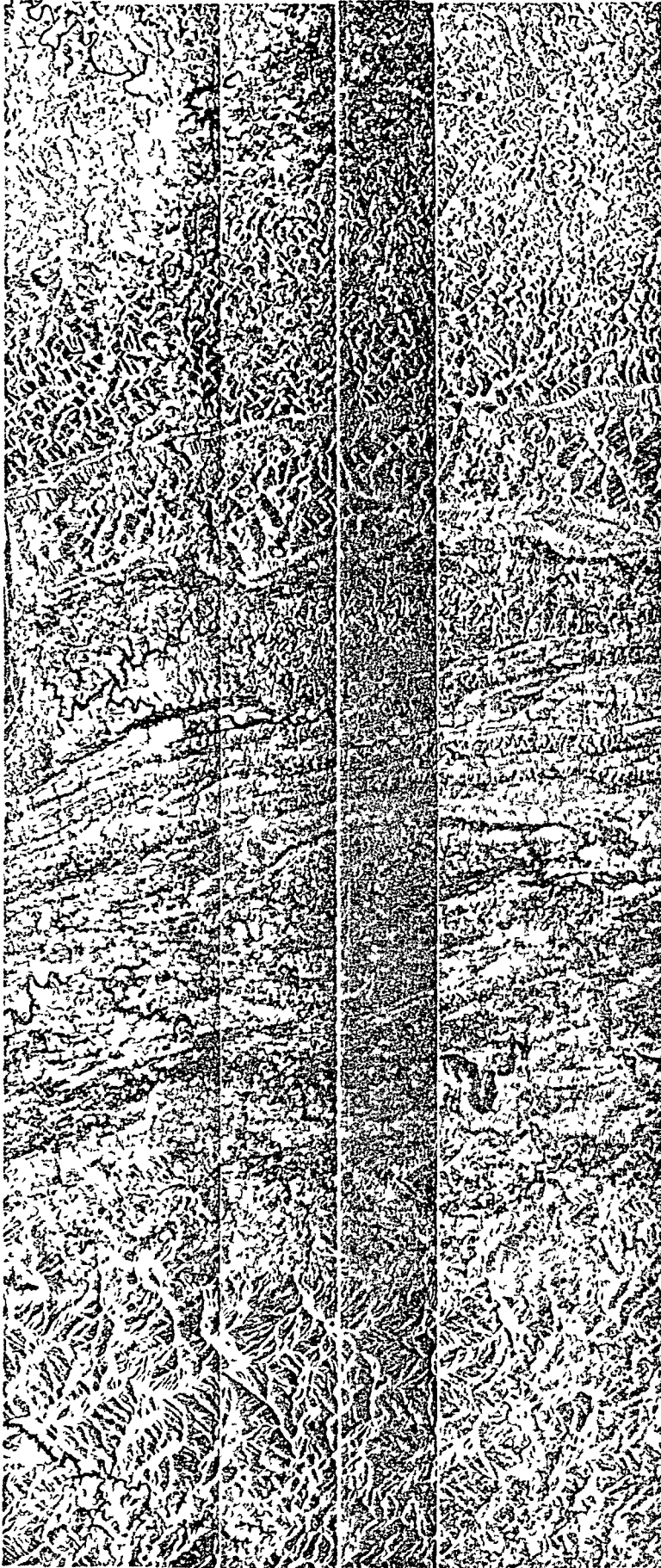
Telephone No: 202/755-8366

Photo Nos: 78-H-493
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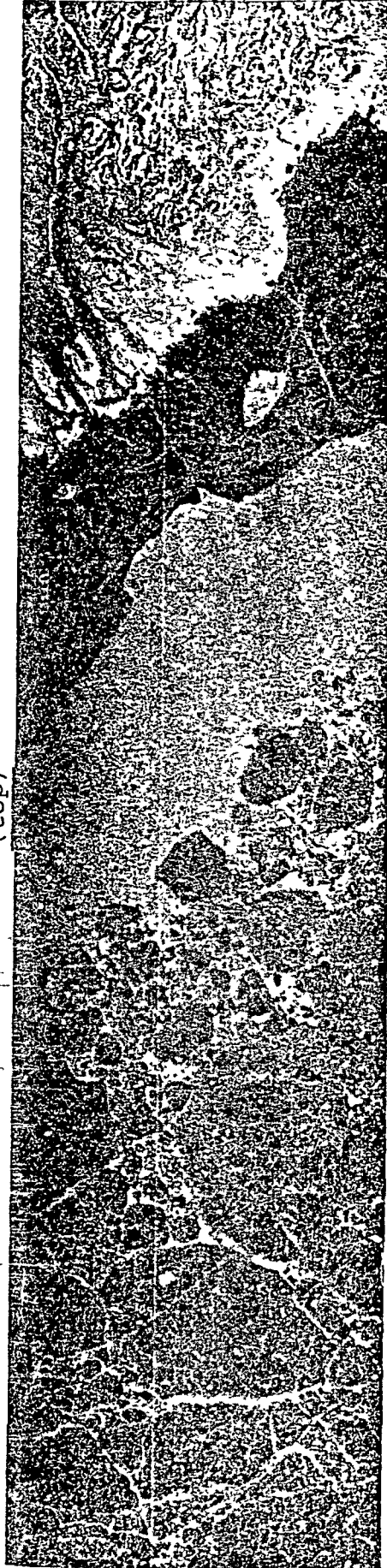


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Radar imagery of geologic structure and topographic variations near Knoxville, Tenn., was obtained July 8 by Seasat-1's Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR). An ocean-monitoring satellite, Seasat also is capable of continental measurements with its payload of day-night, all-weather microwave sensors. This image, acquired at 6:07 a.m. local time, followed by just three minutes SAR coverage of open ocean surface in the Atlantic northeast of Miami.

NASA Photo: 78-H-493

(top)



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This Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) image shows a portion of the Beaufort Sea ice pack west of Banks Island, Canada (right) and covers an area about 29 kilometers (18 miles) by 121 km (75 mi.). The region is northeast of Alaska and some 805 km (500 mi.) inside the Arctic Circle. The image was obtained as Seasat-1 overflew the area at 1:55 a.m. July 11.

NASA Photo: 78-H-494

(top)



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This example of complex ocean structure includes a portion of the Gulf Stream just off the Florida coast northeast of Miami and north of Grand Bahama Island in the Atlantic. Acquired by a high-resolution radar system -- a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) -- aboard the Seasat-1 satellite, the image covers an area approximately 97 kilometers (60 miles) by 121 km (75 mi.), acquired at 6:04 a.m. EDT on July 8.

NASA Photo: 78-H-495

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(top)



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A radar image of the Baja Peninsula coast of Mexico (right), a chain of coastal islands (center) and the Pacific (left) was obtained by Seasat-1's Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) prior to dawn on July 7. The bright ocean areas show varied patterns of internal waves and several areas of wind-roughened surface.
NASA Photo: 78-H-496